

Dear Les,

5/8/84

The King records of which I earlier sent you copies were disclosed to me by the CIA in C.A. 77-1997. I have the originals out and will make two copies of them. I'll enclose one and I'll keep the other on my desk in the event you phone, so I can consult them rapidly and not hold you up.

I also enclose a couple of FBI records. I'll write FBI on them so you'll not get the sources mixed up. I think they add a special perspective because if my recollection is correct, the FBI planned to replace Dr. King with its own "black messiah," your man. I am not now certain why I believe this but I think that the late William Sullivan disclosed it. As I now recall it, while Sullivan had never met Pierce personally, he had a high opinion of Pierce from others who knew him. And if those others were the FBI agents to whom reported, Sullivan had a fine source! I've not reread what was disclosed to me that I'll enclose, but I will, perhaps before I send this but certainly before you can call.

I'm also enclosing, in the event you have use for it, now or later, at least one copy of the letter the FBI sent Dr. King to get him to kill himself. After all, while he was alive he could not be replaced by the FBI's preferred "black messiah." I was provided with two different versions, less withheld in the second. Although I agreed with the appeals office for it to withhold the name of the man who handled that bit, the FBI or DJ disclosed his name. He is Lish (right) Whitson(right), now or as of my last knowledge practising law in Washington. This letter coincided with the pieced together tape, which Whitson flew to Tampa to mail, everyone careful not to leave any FBI prints on anything. The Lab fabricated the tape.

The CIA's excisions are identified by letters. They submitted to the court a list of the exemptions claimed, each identified by a letter. These letters added where content is withheld specify the exemptions claimed by reference to that list of exemptions claimed.

I included in this file a carbon of an appeal I filed relating to the FBI's withholding of SA's name on the cooked-up ground that the SAs would be harassed. In it I identify Whitson and say I can provide what I do not now recall, the name of the Lab agent who fabricated that tape.

If I don't return to this tonight I will in the morning after my walking therapy. I want to suggest something in fairness because I know Jack likes to include such explanations. All FBI black informers (they prefer informant) are not motivated by the money the FBI gives them nor are all out to hurt blacks. For example, three top Memphis NAACP officials, as of the time of the King assassination, were what the FBI calls "symbol informants." This means that they are identified in distributed records only by a combination of symbol and number. While these people,

as I recall it now, all professionals, did inform on blacks and black activities to the FBI, I do believe that in their hearts they believed they were helping black causes and interests that way. Like Julius Honson.

However, this having been said, you can see for yourself that the man I've always suspected was Pierce, did not inform to the CIA in any such manner.

The FOIA lawsuit in which I obtained these (and about 50,000 other) FBI pages is C.A. 75-1996. By remarkable coincidence, when the district court held that I "substantially prevailed" and ordered that the FBI pay my counsel fees (to Jim Lesar), it appealed and the appeal was heard (oral argument) only this very day.

To the best of my knowledge Whitson's name has never been associated publicly with the rotten business of which he was part. My guess is that he'd prefer no mention of it now. My hunch is that he might be cooperative if he could see that being cooperative was in his own interest. And if he knows what you want to know.

The package is going to be a little heavy and it will take longer to reach you by mail. In addition, I'd have to drive into town to the post office to get it out tomorrow evening. For the little bit extra it will cost as of now I plan to get Federal Express to deliver it. They are in Frederick every day now and I can phone them and have them pick it up.

On another subject, for your amusement in the few moments before I have to stop, in going over some records from Hoover's "Official and Confidential" files I came to several in which first DeLoach and then H.A. Jones both proclaimed that the FBI had not leaked anything about the JFK assassination, in particular they did not leak the FBI report. I have an FBI copy of your 12/5/63 story in it when you were with Hearst. They disclosed it to me. So now you know that the FBI never lies and how they controlled what Hoover knew and believed. Both memos were for him and he found them important enough to keep in his office.

5/9- I goofed and wasted some time by using unoriginals to copy from instead of the originals and I then made the right copies. I've a call in for Federal Express and time for a few added comments. Like "symbol informer." This means a 100%, full Hoover fledge informer. Not just a source. Requires a probationary period of six months, If you run into any numbers, this explanation. For those six months it is identified with "P" before the symbol. The symbol includes the two-letter abbreviation of the office, like DL for Dallas, plus the kind of informer, like C for criminal, P for political, followed by an arbitrary number, like 1234. There thus is no duplication by different FBI offices and the identification is unique. R by the way = racial. DL CI 1234 is the informer, with a P before for six months.

I'm sorry, not political = P. It is S, for security. The records of such informers are in 134 files, titled "Security Informants" in the FBI's list, which I have. If criminal it would be 137. There is a separate file for "Extremist Matters, Civil Unrest," No. 157. But these informers are filed in 170, "Extremist informants."

I'm not expecting you to get any files. This is just in case lightning strikes, as it should - elsewhere.

You wrote about the field office inventories of their King holdings. I've just checked my long summary, under New York, and find none of the numbers above inventoried, which is natural enough, although they exist. There is a long series of 100 files, "Subversive Matter," includes domestic intelligence, etc. But, and this may be relevant, one item is withheld in its entirety under b1 or "national security" claim. The number, the title, the description, all withheld. It is about a page and a half long.

If I can help in any way, let me know. After my morning therapy my wife has a dental appointment and we may be away until 1-1:30. Unless we later go out for supper I'll be in the rest of the night, certainly beginning before the Orioles broadcast, which begins about 7:10. Come to think of it, I'm certain to be back by noon tomorrow because one of Allard Lowenstein's college students I'm helping is due here at noon.

Good luck, and best wishes,

